Forest Practices Board

2002/03
Annual Service Plan Report

National Library of Canada Cataloguing in Publication Data
British Columbia. Forest Practices Board.
Annual Service Plan Report. — 2002/03 –

Annual.

Continues: British Columbia. Forest Practices Board. Annual report. ISSN 1230-9071
ISSN 1708-1610 = Annual service plan report – British Columbia. Forest Practices Board.

1. British Columbia. Forest Practices Board – Periodicals. 2. Forest policy – British Columbia – Periodicals. 3. Forest management – British Columbia – Periodicals. I. Title. II. Title: Forest Practices Board . . . annual service plan report.

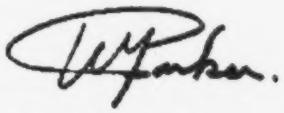
SD14.B7B74 354.5'5288'0971105 C2003-960157-9

For more information on the British Columbia
Forest Practices Board
visit our Web site at
www.fpb.gov.bc.ca/

Published by the Forest Practices Board

Accountability Statement

The 2002/03 Forest Practices Board Annual Service Plan Report was prepared under my direction (in the absence of a Chair, currently) and in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. This report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Board's 2002/03 Service Plan. I am accountable for the Board's results and the basis on which they have been reported.



W. Fred Parker
Executive Director

June 6, 2003

103-06482/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Accountability Statement III

Year-at-a-Glance Highlights 3

Board Role and Services 4

Performance Reporting 6

Report on Resources 10

Year-at-a-Glance Highlights

This is a report on the Board's first service plan, covering Board activities during the fiscal year 2002/03. For the most part, the Board met, if not exceeded, its delivery targets. Most notably:

- As planned, the Board conducted seven audits: five area-based audits, and two full-scope compliance audits (including the second annual audit on Nisga'a lands). One of the compliance audits was able to place reliance on the work of certifying auditors, resulting in a more efficient, cost-effective audit. The Board was only able to publish three of the possible seven audit reports (43%) during the fiscal year. Two more were published in May 2003. The remaining two will be released shortly.
- In the conduct of its investigations, the Board exceeded its target on timeliness, completing 80% of its complaint investigations within six months, compared to the eight months targeted. Alternative dispute resolution techniques proved beneficial in 20% of our investigations. Our target in this objective was 25%.
- The Board doubled-up its publication of results-oriented and area-based reports on topics of public concern. Six reports were published during 2002/03, covering issues such as cattle grazing near riparian areas, marbled murrelet habitat management, and the use of water quality objectives under forest practices legislation.

Board Role and Services

Vision

Forests that are soundly managed to sustain the full range of forest values and forest resources for British Columbians.

Mission

The Forest Practices Board serves the public interest as the independent watchdog for sound forest practices in British Columbia.

Values

The Board:

- acts on behalf of the public's interest, not those of any single group;
- is straightforward in its approach;
- emphasizes solutions over assigning blame;
- behaves in a non-adversarial, balanced manner;
- treats all people with respect, fairness and sensitivity;
- performs in a measured, unbiased and non-partisan manner;
- carries out its mandate with integrity and efficiency;
- provides clear and concise reports to the public;
- bases actions and decisions on knowledge, experience and common sense; and
- is accessible and accountable.

Goals

- Public confidence in accurate and impartial reporting of forest practices.
- A fair and effective means to deal with public concerns about forest practices.
- Forest practices that are widely recognized as sound and continually improving.

Core Business Areas

Forest practices audits, investigations and reports

Provide the public with credible information about the state of forest practices, validate sound practices, and recommend improvements.

Complaint investigations, administrative reviews and appeals

Provide the public with a readily accessible means to have their complaints and concerns regarding forest practices considered and addressed.

Executive and support services

Provide strategic and operational directions and the infrastructure necessary to support the Board's programs.

Performance Reporting

Objectives and Strategies

1. Objective:

A redesigned Board role in the context of a results-based Code, greater reliance on professionals and industry self-regulation.

Strategies:

- Work with government agencies in drafting legislative changes to Board role as part of a new, results-based Code.

2. Objective:

Assessments of the efficacy of the Forest Practices Code in achieving desired results on the ground.

Strategies:

- Pursue legislative change to clarify the Board's mandate to evaluate and report on effectiveness of a results-based Code.
- Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the results-based Code in achieving specified environmental objectives.
- Monitor public concerns to identify key issues for consideration when setting priorities for special investigations.
- Synthesize information from audits and complaint investigations that address recurrent themes.
- Develop, field-test and implement policies and procedures that are results- and effectiveness-oriented.

3. Objective:

Independent audits of industry and government's performance to reinforce the application of sound forest practices throughout the Province.

Strategies:

- Random selection and full scope implementation of:
  - — Area-based sets of audits involving compliance audits of major licences, SBFEP and small tenure licences in the area, along with an enforcement audit on the appropriateness of government's enforcement of the Code in the area.
  - — Annual compliance and enforcement audits pursuant to the Nisga'a treaty.
- Active cooperation with those developing forest practices auditing and, specifically, with the various certification programs operating within B.C.

4. Objective:

An efficient and respectful investigation process that responds to public concerns about forest practices, validates sound forest practices, and recommends improvements where needed.

Strategies:

- Carry out investigations in a logical, thorough, unbiased and non-adversarial manner.
- Maintain regular, forthright and transparent contact with all investigation participants.

5. Objective:

A review and appeal program that is responsive to concerns raised by members of the public and that fosters the implementation/interpretation of the Code that is consistent with its intent.

Strategies:

- Evaluate public requests.
- Monitor administrative decisions.
- Initiate or participate in administrative appeals when it is in the public interest to do so.

6. Objective:

A timely reporting process that fairly and objectively represents the general public interest.

Strategies:

- Produce analyses and reports that are concise, logical and relevant.
- Increase reliance on professional staff to conclude reports.
- Phase in shorter timelines for completion.

7. Objective:

World-class expertise in auditing and investigating forest practices.

Strategies:

- Maintain and expand expertise through regular comprehensive training and recruitment criteria.
- Support and encourage staff contribution to national and international forums.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2002/03 Target	2002/03 Actual	Variance
A report on the redesigned role of the Board.	1	0	-1 For release in fiscal 2004, once the regulations to the new Forest and Range Practices Act are released.
Public reporting of Board views on the White Paper for a results-based Code.	1	1	0 June 2002
Published audit, investigation, and appeal manuals that inform the public about the new way the Board conducts its business.	3	2	-1 Review and appeal manual not yet published. Expected in early Fiscal 2004.
Number of quality-assured sets of audit projects.	5 area-based plus 2 compliance audits (including Nisga'a)	5 area-based plus 2 compliance audits (including Nisga'a). One of the latter placed reliance on the work of certifying auditors, resulting in a more efficient, cost-effective audit.	N/A
Timeliness: Percentage of audits published within the fiscal year.	100%s	43%	-57% Three fiscal 2003 audit reports were published. Two more reports were issued in May 2003.
A report on audit procedures that recognize and complement industry forest practices audits.	N/A	N/A	N/A Report published in Fiscal 2004.
Timeliness: Target to report on an investigation; 80% will be completed in *x* months.	8 months	Under 6 months.	Over 2 months faster. For 80% of the complaint investigations undertaken.

Performance Measure	2002/03 Target	2002/03 Actual	Variance
Percentage of complaints where some resolution was achieved through alternate dispute resolution.	25%	20%	-5%
Results-oriented and area-based reports on topics of public concern.	3	6	3
Percentage of decisions made by the Board within 45 days on forest development plan reviews requested by the public.	100%	100%	N/A

Report on Resources

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Total	**4,822**	**—**	**4,822**	**4,373**	**449**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)					
Total	**33**	**—**	**33**	**30**	**3**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (CRF) ($000)					
Total	**125**	**125**	**125**	**111**	**14**

Report on Resources

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Total	**4,822**	**—**	**4,822**	**4,373**	**449**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)					
Total	**33**	**—**	**33**	**30**	**3**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (CRF) ($000)					
Total	**125**	**125**	**125**	**111**	**14**